

Annual Report 2001 of the Environmental Finance Center Network

Environmental Finance Center Network

2001 Annual Report

EFC at Cleveland State University

Cleveland State University is the EFC for the Great Lakes Region

The Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center (GLEFC), in Region 5, was established in 1994 to serve public, private, and not-for-profit sector entities in U.S. EPA, Region 5, which includes the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The GLEFC works with communities and states to develop innovative, cost effective, and high quality strategies for environmental improvement and sustainable economic development.

The annual report describes the major accomplishments of the Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center during the calendar year 2001.

The GLEFC is housed in the Urban Center of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. The Urban Center is a nationally recognized public

policy research institute engaged in a wide range of research, technical assistance, and training activities related to the urban and regional economy.

The GLEFC draws upon Urban Center staff experts and College faculty members in the fields of economic development, environmental planning, public administration, and public management

and finance. Where needed, GLEFC also utilizes specialists outside the university, including private consultants, experts from the EFC network, and other resources with the skills needed to perform its job.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2001, the GLEFC provided technical assistance, studies, seminars, training, counsel, and testimony to local, state, federal, and not-for-profit organizations and clients. The GLEFC continues to provide support to the Federal Executive Board of Greater Cleveland in facilitating a federal and state agency collaboration on brownfields. The GLEFC is working with the EPA's Great Lakes National

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Program office to identify innovative methods of financing (great lakes) sediment disposal. The GLEFC is also working with the Ohio Department of Development, through its Clean Ohio Council, the Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources on new environmental public policy initiatives.

In addition, the GLEFC and the Levin College of Urban Affairs have created a faculty appointment to the Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center, *the GLEFC Fellow*. The GLEFC Fellow, Wendy Kellogg, Ph.D., will assist the GLEFC in conducting studies and technical assistance projects and write academic and applied journal articles about the Center's projects.

The GLEFC year 2001 program included:

BROWNFIELDS

Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund

The GLEFC was engaged by the Ohio Department of Development, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Clean Ohio Council to assist in initiating a \$200 million bond financed brownfield redevelopment grant fund. The GLEFC was charged with developing the strategy and implementation plan for initiating the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (the Fund). The GLEFC identified operational issues for the implementation of the Fund through a series of focus groups. The focus groups were conducted in each of the 19 Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund implementation districts, drawing approximately 300 participants. The sessions were utilized to identify three principal issues:

- to assess the local capacity to initiate and manage the Fund process;

- to assemble a list detailing the order of priorities among the project selection criteria (as defined in the enabling legislation); and
- to define a methodology for the definition of program rules and project selection methodology.

The GLEFC submitted a report of the focus group findings to the Clean Ohio Council, "The Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund: A Report on the Focus Groups in Ohio's 19 Public Works Commission Districts." In addition, the GLEFC staff testified before the Clean Ohio Council on the policy related outcomes of the focus groups.

The GLEFC continues to serve in a consulting and advisory capacity to the Clean Ohio Council in 2002.

Publications and Testimony

- "The Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund: A Report of the Focus Groups in Ohio's 19 Public Works Commission Districts", December 2001
- The Role of Certified Professionals and the Voluntary Action Program in the Clean Ohio Remediation Fund, Presentation to the Ohio EPA Annual VAP Certified Professional Training session, November 13, 2001
- "Perceptions of Ohio's Local Leaders on the Clean Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program", Testimony before the Clean Ohio Council, December 18, 2001, Columbus Ohio.

Brownfields One-Stop-Shop (BOSS) Task Force

The GLEFC was engaged by the Federal Executive Board of Northern Ohio to facilitate the development of a strategic plan to guide the

implementation and operation of the Brownfields One Stop Shop (BOSS) partnership between federal agencies in northern Ohio that have a programmatic role in brownfield remediation. The strategic plan focus is on the desired structure for the BOSS, the program and schedule of the BOSS activities, and the financing of the BOSS activities. The strategic planning process had many components. The GLEFC conducted the needs assessment portion of the strategic plan by interviewing the federal, state, county and local government participants in the BOSS process. The assessment strove to determine the participant's perceptions of the need for the BOSS operation, the level of collaboration (among the government agencies) required for success, and the structure of the BOSS operation. The needs assessment also measured the demand side perceptions, those of real estate developers and marketing and management firms.

The GLEFC conducted a best practice scan of federal agency collaboration as a model to engage the 14 federal agencies participating in the BOSS process.

The strategic plan implementation is set for Winter 2002.

Publications and Testimony

- "The Brownfields One Stop Shop and Intergovernmental Efficiency", Testimony before the Federal Executive Board of Greater Cleveland, May 2001
- "Best Practices in Federal Agency Collaboration on Public Policy Initiatives", August 2001
- BOSS Task Force Participant Scan, July 17, 2001

- Brownfields One Stop Shop (BOSS) presentation, Brownfields 2001 Conference, Chicago, Illinois, September 25, 2001

A GLEFC article about the BOSS strategic planning process has been accepted for publication in an academic journal. The article has been also accepted for presentation at a national public administration conference.

Ohio Brownfield Finance Task Force

The GLEFC is a member of the state-wide forum convened by the Ohio Water Development Authority between public agencies, private developers, and bankers to discuss the opportunities in the finance and redevelopment of brownfields.

Great Lakes Sediment Disposal Finance

The GLEFC has engaged in conversation with the Great Lakes National Program Office of the U.S. EPA to identify alternative funding scenarios for the disposal of sediment from the great lakes. It is anticipated that the conversations will evolve into a full scale project.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34 Infrastructure Reporting Seminar

The GLEFC conducted a series of seminars on the infrastructure reporting aspects of the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) No. 34 accounting requirements for governments. The seminar focused on the "modified" reporting

alternative of GASB 34, the asset management reporting system. The seminar series attracted over 120 local government finance and planning directors. The seminars were conducted for *Build Up Greater Cleveland*, a regional infrastructure advocacy organization.

GASB Statement No. 34: From Infrastructure Reporting to Sustainable Development

The GLEFC presented a keynote speech at the annual conference of the Ohio Government Finance Officers Association.

GASB Statement No. 34: Infrastructure Reporting - Leverage for Public Works Managers

The GLEFC was solicited to write an article for Public Works Management and Policy, an academic/applied journal, identifying the expanding opportunity for public works managers to broaden their role in local government capital budgeting and planning.

Coastal Management Resources Training Market Analysis

The GLEFC is conducting a market analysis to assist the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and its partners (Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Ohio Sea Grant College Program) in developing a comprehensive training program on coastal resources management for policy makers in the Ohio-Lake Erie Basin.

The GLEFC Team conducts monthly meetings with the ODNR Team to discuss and evaluate this project.

The Teams have identified the goals and objectives of the project, the geographic scope of the project, definitions associated with certain aspects of the analysis, themes and topics for research associated with coastal resources management, and a timeline to completion. These details, as well as information concerning the collection of the data, survey development and methodology, the national scan of best practices, and the final analysis, are outlined within a written Work Plan.

The GLEFC Team began reviewing available literature on the topic of coastal resources management, including the perusal of professional journals and directories, and Internet-based searches, to identify course work and instructors available in Ohio and nationally in existing coastal training programs. The GLEFC Team polled the ODNR Team to develop an initial list of potential training providers offering instruction in Ohio, and merged this list with training providers identified through the literature review. This culminated in a list of potential candidates to survey by telephone, who provide training in coastal resources management.

The Teams worked together to develop the criteria to be included on the survey questionnaire. Survey instruments were developed – a questionnaire for email and fax surveys, and a cover letter. The questionnaire was later adapted for conducting telephone interviews. Once the Teams concurred upon the content of the questionnaire and cover letter, survey candidates were contacted by telephone to schedule times and dates for conducting interviews. The cover letter and questionnaire were faxed or emailed to the candidates in advance of the scheduled interview.

Currently, 35 coastal resources management-training providers within the state of Ohio were identified, and 27 telephone interviews were concluded. The remaining candidates have been

contacted, and interviews have either been scheduled or are due to be scheduled. Eight additional training providers have been identified, and will be added to the list of survey candidates. We anticipate 3 to 5 additional candidates as a result of our research in the non-profit sector, bringing the grand total of interview candidates to an estimated 48 individuals.

The GLEFC Team will begin developing a matrix of the data collected from the interviews, and begin its analysis. A map of the Ohio-Lake Erie Basin was designed through the application of GIS software. Training providers within the geographic study area will be located and identified on this map for interactive use. A Best Practices scan is included within the research to provide a national perspective of training providers of coastal resource management programs. These components – the literature review, the matrix of training providers and programs, the best practices scan, and the GIS mapping – form the basis for the final analysis and report.

Publications

- **Coastal Training Market Analysis:** Mechanism Used to Conduct Analysis, December 2002
- **CapFinance Training.** The GLEFC in collaboration with the Environmental Finance Center at Boise State University has planned a series of training sessions of small and medium sized local governments in Ohio and Washington state on the capital planning and financing software package developed by the Boise State EFC.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure and the Community.** The GLEFC provided the keynote presentation at a University of Massachusetts-Amherst conference on community partnerships with universities on advocating for public

investments in infrastructure as a method of stimulating economic growth and community sustainability.

- **Sustainable Infrastructure Development.** The GLEFC participated in the sustainable infrastructure development committee of the Build Up Greater Cleveland Program of the Greater Cleveland Growth Association (the Cleveland, Ohio Chamber of Commerce). The committee identifies strategies for sustainable infrastructure development.

NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2002

The GLEFC will pursue both continuing and new initiatives in 2002, in the policy areas of brownfields and sustainable futures.

Brownfields

- The GLEFC will continue to assist the Ohio Department of Development's Clean Ohio Council with the initiation of their \$200 million Clean Ohio (brownfield) Remediation Fund grant program. The GLEFC will provide training and counsel to the 19 Clean Ohio Program district committees in Ohio.
- The GLEFC will continue to work with the Federal Executive Board of Greater Cleveland on the Brownfield One Stop Shop (BOSS) program to initiate the BOSS concept in northern Ohio.
- The GLEFC will continue to discuss a potential project on the great lakes sediment disposal finance with the Great Lakes National Program office of the U.S. EPA.

- The GLEFC will continue to work on brownfield related activities through the U.S. EPA, Region V office.
- The GLEFC will continue to participate in the Ohio Brownfields finance Partnership with the Ohio Water Development Authority.

Sustainable Futures

- The GLEFC proposes to conduct the second phase of a Coastal Resources Management market study for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Sea Grant Program, to understand the market for coastal resources management training opportunities for public policy makers in Ohio.
- The GLEFC proposes to conduct an evaluation of the litter prevention demonstration projects for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The evaluation considers the pilot programs run in four cities and three counties in Ohio.
- The GLEFC will be collaborating with the Boise State University EFC to provide training to local governments in Ohio and Washington State on the use of CAPFinance, the capital asset management system.
- The GLEFC will provide assistance to local governments through national, regional, and state-wide trade groups on the implementation of GASB Statement No. 34 Infrastructure asset reporting regulations.

NETWORK COLLABORATION

CAPFinance

The GLEFC will be collaborating with the Boise State University EFC to provide training to water utilities on the use of CAPFinance, the capital asset management system for drinking water utilities.

PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

The GLEFC will continue to make presentations in national, regional, and state-wide conferences. These will include conferences of the Council of Infrastructure Finance Authorities, Government Finance Officers Association, National League of Cities, Municipal Leagues, national brownfields conferences, Build Up Greater Cleveland, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, as well as others not yet identified.

The topics will range from local government compliance with GASB Statement No. 34 infrastructure asset reporting regulations to brownfield management efficiencies.

RESULTS

The GLEFC will continue to provide assistance to local and state governments and not-for-profit organizations on environmental compliance and sustainable strategies. The evidence of the outcomes is the continued requests from national, regional, state and local governments and organizations that request the participation of the GLEFC. The GLEFC will partner with other EFC's and organizations to ensure continuing success.